

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

AID-20 T-03 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 OC-06 RSR-01

/131 W

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R 120715 Z MAR 73

FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1300

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMCONSUL KISANGANI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUBUMBASHI 0090

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS CG

SUBJ: PUBLIC ORDER IN SHABA

REF: LUBUMBASHI 081

1. UNDERSTAND FROM SOME CONSULAR COLLEAGUES HERE THAT WHAT MAY BE EXAGGERATED STORIES ON PUBLIC ORDER IN SHABA ARE MAKING THE ROUNDS IN KINSHASA. THIS TELEGRAM GIVES OUR BRIEF ASSESSMENT BUT WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT, GIVEN MINIMAL RECENT TRAVEL BY CONSULATE PERSONNEL WE ARE NOT FIRSTHAND FAMILIAR WITH SITUATION.

2. PER REF A., THERE HAS BEEN UNEASINESS ON PARTS OF MILITARY AND EUROPEAN COMMUNITY DURING PAST WEEKS, LARGELY DUE TO MURDER OF THREE MILITARY INCLUDING VAIN ATTEMPT AT PAY- ROLL ROBBERY. MILITARY REACTION WAS EXCESSIVE BUT IN RECENT DAYS NUMBER OF CHECKS AND ROADBLOCKS, AT LEAST IN LUBUMBASHI AREA HAS DECLINED SHARPLY.

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3. AT THE SAME TIME THERE ARE SPATES OF RUMORS RE UNREST AND MANIFESTATIONS AROUND THE PROVINCE. GENDARMERIE AT KAMINA ARE SAID TO HAVE PROVOKED A CIVILIAN COUNTER- REACTION BY STRONG- ARM TACTICS PROMOTING QTE VOLUNTARY UNQTE LABOR FOR SOLONGO. ALSO RUMORED THAT KAMINA ARMORY RAIDED. SIMILAR STORY PERTAINS TO MALEMBA- KNULU WHERE ALLEGEDLY TWO GENDARMES PLUS CIVILIAN OFFICIAL ROUGHED UP. VAGUE STORY ATTRIBUTES UNREST TO MILITARY GARRISON AT SHINKOLOBWE. THESE LIKELY FALL IN SAME CATEGORIES AS TALES HERE OF UNREST AND STRONG SECURITY MEASURES BY GOZ ON KINSHASA - MATADI ROAD.

4. IT WOULD BE MISTAKE TO UNDER- RATE OR TOTOALLY DISREGARD THESE STORIES. GOVT HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY HARASSING THE ZAIROIS OVER PAST FEW MONTHS. WHEN EMPLOYMENT AND UNDER- EMPLOYMENT ARE HIGH AND COST OF LIVING ZOOMING, GOVT HAS, FOR EXAMPLE:

-- KEPT WAGES FLAT;

-- TAKEN MORE AND MORE PRODUCTIVE OR FREE TIME WITH PARTY ANIMATION, CHANTS AND SLOGANS;

-- BEGUN TO USE THE FREE TIME OF THE CITIZENRY FOR WHAT, UNTIL NOW AT LEAST, HAVE BEEN MAKE- WORK PROJECTS UNDER SALONGO;

-- MADE THE ABAKO COSTUME MANDJWORY FOR MANY AND OUTLAWED THE EUROPEAN WARDROBE;

-- SUPPRESSED RELIGIOUS PUBLICATIONS AND ALMOST FULLY REPLACED ANY REAL NEWS IN GOVT PRESS WITH PARTY PONTIFICATIONS.

-- PUSHED CONCURRENTLY CULT OF ANONYMITY (ANYBODY BUT MOBUTU) ALONG WITH THE CULT OF THE ONE AND ONLY PERSONALITY;

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-- ONCE AGAIN BEGUN TO ATTACK CHURCHES,

PROTESTANT AS WELL AS CATHOLIC;

-- CLOSED THE BARS UNTIL LATE AFTERNOON,
AND,

-- PERHAPS MOST HEINOUS OF ALL, THREATENED TO
POLITICIZE FOOTBALL AND OTHER SPORTS.

I HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING HOW LONG SHABIANS WILL ALLOW
THEMSELVES TO BE HASSLED THIS WAY, MAYBE INDEFINITELY.
WE DETECT NO RPT NO SIGNS SITUATION IS CRITICAL NOR
OF ORGANIZED RESISTANCE. BUT IT BECOMES CLEARER
THAT TY GUIDE ECLAIRE IS LOSING SOME OF HIS
LUSTER.
JUNIOR

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LUBUMB00090
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: LUBUMBASHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730324/aaaahkzb.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 LUBUMBASHI 081
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <04-Feb-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971118
Subject: PUBLIC ORDER IN SHABA
TAGS: PINS, CG
To: AF
BUKAVU
KINSHASA
KISANGANI
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

